

field lengths within the header. That is, all of the fields in each of the headers has a fixed size and/or fixed value (i.e., designating the type of information conveyed within that field). There is nothing which teaches or suggests anything to the contrary.


In contrast, the present claims recite a header which includes a protocol extension field that indicates changes of field values and/or lengths within the header. That is, the protocol extension field indicates deviations from the norm (e.g., see claim 6). Because Yoshida describes only conventional headers, which fail to include such protocol extension fields, it is axiomatic that there can be no teaching or suggestion of any fields in such conventional headers which would indicate deviations from the norm. For at least these reasons, the present claims are patentable over Yoshida.

If there are any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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Tarek N. Fahmi
Reg. No. 41.402

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 947-8200